

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, which amends claims 1, 10, and 23, and adds claims 45-48, claims 1-10, 23-32, and 45-48 will be pending. Claims 1 and 10 are objected to because of informalities, claims 23-32 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,672,589 (hereinafter the '589 patent) in view Rowe et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0039921). Claims 1-10 and 23-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Strisower (U.S. Patent No. 5,809,482) in view of Meissner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,779,546) and Rowe et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0039921, (hereinafter "Rowe").

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 10 were objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 to correct the informalities as the Examiner suggested. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

Double Patenting Objections

Claims 1-10 and 23-32 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 7 of the '589 patent in view of Rowe. In response, applicants submit a terminal disclaimer in order to overcome the double patenting rejection. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1-10

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Strisower in view of Meissner and Rowe. Applicants respectfully submit that Strisower, Meissner, and Rowe, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest every element of claim 1, as amended. For example, Strisower, Meissner and Rowe, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest depicting the player positions of a gaming table on a

display and associating the respective play position of the player on the display with a card by touching the respective player position depicted on the display at which the player is located at the gaming table.

Strisower, Meissner and Rowe, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest displaying player positions of the gaming table on the display. The Examiner points to Meissner at col. 12, lines 18-28 as disclosing depicting player positions on a display. This section of Meissner discloses an LED that illuminates on a touch screen to indicate to the dealer that the player is ready to play. Applicants submit that this element does not disclose or suggest depicting player positions on a display. Further, the rejection states that Meissner teaches that the touching the respective player's position of the player on the touchscreen credits the amount of money to a respective player's card. However, nowhere in Meissner is it disclosed or suggested that player positions of the game table are depicted on the display; rather, Meissner just states that a player may simply touch the screen if he does not possess an identification card. *See Meissner*, col. 12, lines 15-16.

Accordingly, applicants submit that the references in combination do not disclose or suggest depicting the player positions of a gaming table on the display. Further, Strisower, Meissner and Rowe, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest associating a respective player position of a player on the display with the card by touching the respective player position depicted on the display at which the player is located at the gaming table.

Further, it would not have been obvious to depict the player positions of the gaming table on the display. There is no suggestion in any of the references that player positions on the gaming table are depicted on a display and a respective player position is touched on the display, the position being a position where players are located at the gaming table.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1. Claims 2-10 and 45 depend from claim 1 and thus derive patentability at least therefrom. These claims also recite additional nonobvious and novel features. For example, claim 45 recites displaying information for the regulatory function at the respective player position of the player depicted on the display. Strisower, Meissner and Rowe, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest that information for a regulatory function is displayed at a respective player

position depicted on the display. This provides many advantages, such as a dealer may look at the respective player position on the display and see any information for a regulatory function. This information may be seen easily located, and thus may be more noticeable and easily associated with a player at the gaming table. This may be valuable because regulatory functions should be adhered to.

Claims 23-32

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Strisower, Meissner and Rowe. Applicants submit that Strisower, Meissner and Rowe, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest every element of claim 23. For example, Strisower, Meissner and Rowe, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a display monitor being configured to depict player positions where players are physically positioned at the table and associating a card of a player being read by the card reader with a respective player position of the player at the table upon a touching of the respective player position depicted on the touchscreen.

Claims 24-32 and 46 depend from claim 23 and thus derive patentability at least therefrom. These claims also recite additional nonobvious and novel features. For example, claim 46 recites a display configured to display information for the regulatory function at the respective player position of the player depicted on the touchscreen.

New Claims 47-48

Applicants submit that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every element of new claims 47-48. For example, in claim 47, the cited references do not disclose or suggest determining a regulatory function in response to the touching of the respective player position depicted on the display. None of the cited references discloses or suggests determining a regulatory function when a respective player position is touched on the display. Further, in claim 48, the cited references do not disclose or suggest displaying information for the regulatory function when a respective player position is touched on the display.

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Amdt. dated March 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 15, 2004

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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